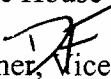




MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Linking patients, communities, and providers together for better health.

TO: Members of the House Senior Health, Security & Retirement Committee

FROM: David Finkbeiner,  Vice President, Advocacy

DATE: September 19, 2006

SUBJECT: **SB 1357: Public Act 47 Hospitals – Clarification of Services**
MHA Position: SUPPORT

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association asks you to approve language in SB 1357 to clarify the ability of a few hospitals specially organized under a particular public act (PA 47 of 1945) to offer the same broad array of community health services as other hospitals within the state.

Michigan has over 140 nonprofit community hospitals. Many of these hospitals are operated by private organizations, such as religious-based systems, etc. Others are authorized by various municipalities such as counties, cities or townships under a variety of charters and state legislative acts. Five small community hospitals in Michigan are governed by Public Act 47 of 1945. **These hospitals and the communities they serve are pleased to continue their mutual relationship under PA 47 but seek changes in the Act to clarify the hospitals' ability to offer beneficial community health services if approved by the municipality and the hospital.**

When PA 47 was enacted in 1945, nobody envisioned the broad array of services presently available to patients and communities through their local hospitals. SB 1357 would expand the definition of a hospital service to include care for the elderly through a long-term care facility, assisted living facility, home for the aged, and senior citizen housing facility. It would also clarify that a hospital could provide a health and wellness facility. All of these services are widely offered by other hospitals throughout the state to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

For these reasons, we urge your support of SB 1357 and thank the bill's sponsors, Senators McManus, Kuipers, Allen, Brown, Birkholz, Goschka, and Hammerstrom for addressing this need. As health care broadens to include hospitals taking larger roles in supporting healthy communities, PA 47 hospitals need to be able to provide the same services as other hospitals within the state. Please contact Amy Barkholz (abarkholz@mha.org) at 517-703-8616 at the MHA if you have any questions.


SPENCER JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

Hospitals Organized Under PA 47 of 1945

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center
Kalkaska, MI

Lake View Community Hospital
Paw Paw, MI

Mackinac Straits Hospital and Health Center
St. Ignace, MI

South Haven Community Hospital
South Haven, MI

Three Rivers Hospital
Three Rivers, MI